



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PURSE SEINE FISHING VESSEL TO BE CONSTRUCTED FOR PACIFIC EXPLORATIONS

A contract for the construction of a purse seine vessel for exploratory fishing in Hawaiian waters and westward throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was awarded to the Pacific Boatbuilding Company of Tacoma, Washington, on June 27, Albert M. Day, director of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

With the completion of this vessel, the John R. Manning, the Fish and Wildlife Service will have three exploratory and research vessels assigned to the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations. Authorized by Public Law 329, 80th Congress, this program was set up to investigate, explore, and develop the high seas fisheries of the Territories and Island possessions and intervening areas in the tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean.

The John R. Manning will be of wooden construction, 86'6" in length and will have a cruising range of 7,000 miles. The construction period is 180 days. Architects in charge will be the firm of Pillsbury & Martignoni. The other two vessels of the program, the Henry O'Malley and Hugh M. Smith, are former Navy YPs of the 600 class. These two vessels, which are 128 feet in length, of the tuna clipper type, are already being converted for exploratory fish and research work in west coast shipyards. They will be completed in the early fall of 1949.

The operations of the three ships will be concentrated primarily on determining the locations, seasons, and methods of capture of tuna and tuna-like fishes, and related oceanographic, biological, and technological research. Such information is essential to the economic development as well as conservation and management of this currently little understood, but important, resource.

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